

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 19, 2008

The Honorable Alan B. Mollohan
Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman and Congressman Frelinghuysen:

As you consider programs that deserve additional resources, we respectfully ask you to fully fund the Community Oriented Policing Services (C.O.P.S) program in the FY2009 Commerce-Justice-Science appropriations bill.

Congress created the C.O.P.S. program in the 1990s to address increasing crime rates. The program succeeded in putting over 117,000 more police on the beat. Former Attorney General John Ashcroft described C.O.P.S. as a "miraculous sort of success." And a 2005 GAO study released stated, "...the evidence indicates that COPS contributed to declines in crime above the levels of declines that would have been expected without it." Furthermore, it is the most democratic, with a small "D," anti-crime program Congress ever envisioned because funding is distributed to small communities and large metropolitan cities, such as New York City. In fact, 82 percent of the funding has gone to cities with 50,000 people or less.

Today the C.O.P.S. program is a success story. Recent FBI reports show violent crime has decreased by 1.8 percent during the first six months of 2007, compared to the first half of 2006. Moreover, community oriented policing and "Hot Spots" enforcement has led to national decreases in homicide, robbery, aggravated assault, and aggravated assault with a firearm according to the December 2007 Police Executive Research Forum survey.

After receiving more than \$1 billion each year in the late 1990s, funding for the C.O.P.S. program has been cut in half and now stands at \$587.2 million for FY2008. The President's FY2009 budget proposal eliminates C.O.P.S. funding. This funding has enabled local and state police agencies to hire additional officers and has been instrumental in reducing violent crime.

C.O.P.S enjoys the support of all the nation's major law enforcement organizations and was reauthorized as part of the Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005. The program has benefited communities large and small across the nation and enjoys strong, bipartisan support.

We hope you will do everything possible to ensure that this program receives full funding in the FY2009 Commerce-Justice-Science appropriations bill.

Sincerely,



ANTHONY D. WEINER
Member of Congress



RIC KELLER
Member of Congress

Shelley Barkley

Jim Korman

John P. Sch

Augustine J. Schwartz

Ed Palomotto

Rick Zinner

Mike Doyle

Ben A. ...

Al ...

David Scott

Hot Shl

C. M.

Raul M. Grijalva

Eliot L. Engel

Cale E. Wilson

Edward J. Markey

Jerome P. O'Leary

Jerry Moran

Mike Moran

Elonna

Niki Tsongas

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Julia A. LeBund

T. Hdd

John Lagersy.

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V. J. Jr

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Ivan Moore

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Mike Ren

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